

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/054 W

-----161635Z 021242 /43

O R 161529Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1902

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 3443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS-MEDIA COVERAGE

1. MEDIA COVERAGE OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS REMAINED
LIGHT AND NONCOMMITTAL OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. FRIDAY EVENING GOP NATIONAL INFORMATION
COMMISSION RELEASED A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATED
THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED, THAT
ESCOBAR AND ROYO HAD RETURNED FOR DIRECT CONSULTATION
WITH TORRIJOS, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE RETURNING TO
WASHINGTON TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS TUESDAY (FBIS/PANAMA
PA 132327Y). COMMUNIQUE WAS COVERED BY BROADCAST
MEDIA FRIDAY EVENING AND RECEIVED UNSPECTACULAR
PLAY IN ALL SATURDAY PAPERS.

3. THERE WAS NO OTHER DIRECT COVERAGE OR COMMENTARY
ON SATURDAY, ALTHOUGH PAPERS GAVE FAIR COVERAGE,
WITH PICTURES, TO A SMALL STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AT
ONE GATE OF FORT CLAYTON ON FRIDAY (SEPTTEL).

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4. DIRECT SUNDAY COVERAGE WAS LIMITED TO A LEAD ARTICLE
IN GOP-GUIDED "DOMINICAL". THIS FANCIFUL STORY--
COMPLETE WITH ATTRIBUTIONS TO A VARIETY OF DOUBTLESSLY
APOCRYPHAL SOURCES--SAYS THAT REASSIGNMENT OF MAJ.
GEN. RICHARDSON, COMMANDER OF 193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE
IN CANAL ZONE, IS DUE TO USG DESIRE TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE
FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN WAKE OF FUROR CAUSED BY AP ARTICLE

QUOTING RICHARDSON AND GEN. MCAULIFFE.

5. MONDAY PAPERS CARRIED ALMOST NOTHING DIRECTLY RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS EXCEPT FOR A REPORT IN "ESTRELLA" OF AN APPEARANCE BY FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA AND MEMEBERS OF LANDS AND WATERS TECHNICAL GROUP VELASQUEZ AND ZAMBRANO AT CADE-77 BUSINESS EXECUTIVES' CONFERENCE SUNDAY. GONZALEZ-REVILLA IS QUOTED THAT 1977 MUST BE THE "YEAR OF THE WIND-UP OF THE NEGOTIAIONS". HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW IN A "STAGE OF CONSULTATIONS" WHOSE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE IS THE "TOTAL RECOVERY OF ALL INSTALLATIONS IN THE CANAL ZONE IN A PERIOD WHICH DOES NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE YEAR 2000". LANDS AND WATERS SPECIALISTS GAVE A SLIDE-LILLUSTRATED BRIEFING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESENTATION WAS BASED SUBSTANTIALY ON PANAMA'S MOST RECENT LANDS AND WATERS POSITION PRESENTED TO THE U.S.

6. AS OF 0900 MAY 16, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS HAVE DEPARTED FOR THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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